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Mari Bras Charges CIA and Attacks On Youths

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Mari Bras, secretary general of the Pro Independence Movement (PIM), charged on Thursday that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is responsible for attacks Wednesday night on a group of independent youths.

Mari Bras said in a prepared statement that the Association of University Students for Statehood (AUPE), the group which allegedly provoked the violence, is an "instrument" of the CIA.

"It is obvious that the provocations were not spontaneous, but resulted from detailed organization," Mari Bras said.

"We do not have the slightest doubt that in back of all this is the infamous CIA, which has been trying for some time, through its San Juan office, to attack the PIM and the independence struggle in general," Mari Bras added.

The PIM leader referred to the pro-statehood students as "despicable beings, such as are recorded in the pages of history throughout the world and throughout time."

Mari Bras quoted from a news story in El Mundo on the incident to show that the anti-independence violence was instigated by AUPE and that the independentista group behaved with "serenity" and "extraordinary courage."

Mari Bras also charged that the policemen who accompanied the independentista marchers failed to arrest any of the aggressors, even after three independentista youths were injured by rocks.

The incidents against the pro-independence group occurred in front of Inter American Univer-



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sity in Hato Rey and later in Santurce.

A group of about 500 members of the Federation of University Students for Independence (FUPI) was harassed, insulted and pelted with rocks as they made their way from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) to Ft. Brooke in a march protesting compulsory military service.

Mari Bras said that his group will "organize" itself to "answer aggression with aggression and violence with violence."

"The streets of Puerto Rico belong to the people," he said. "This little group of paid lackeys will not be able to stop the people from using them (the streets) to protest all the abuses perpetuated by yankee imperialism on our country."

Mari Bras added that Wednesday's incident will be "answered" with another march, "which will be minutely organized" and for which the entire MPI membership will be mobilized.

The PIM leader warned the government that his group "will not tolerate" any provocation during this march and will use violence if attacked.